



Watersheds

A watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river or lake and is nature's way of dividing up the landscape. New England includes many eco-systems that, by virtue of their ecological value, recreational value, or proximity to large populations, hold a special significance to us. EPA New England is focusing particular attention and resources on these special places. Working closely with our federal, state and local partners, these community based initiatives are delivering tangible environmental improvements to these watershed areas.

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Fact Sheet/June 2002

Salmon Falls



What Makes The Salmon Falls/Piscataqua River Watershed Special?

- Salmon Falls/Piscataqua River is an interstate water, forming the boundary between a portion of ME and NH. Coordinated actions are required by both states to achieve water quality standards.
- The potential exists to increase fisheries (shad, herring, brown trout, rainbow trout) and improve sport fishing. Recent licensing decisions have resulted in unrestricted (run-of-river) flows at virtually all dams in the lower part of the basin, below Milton Three Ponds.

Why Does The Salmon Falls/Piscataqua River Watershed Need Special Attention?

- The river has a severe water quality problem: a 5.5 mile section, upstream of the S. Berwick dam, fails to attain ME and NH's designated water quality standards for dissolved oxygen.
- Severe algae blooms develop in the first two impoundments above head of tide and continue to the estuary.
- A toxicity problem may exist in the river.
- Biological monitoring for macro-invertebrates collected downstream from Berwick indicate that Maine's aquatic life criteria are not met.

What is the Long Term Goal?

- Meet water quality standards and restore biological integrity of the river by 2005.

Progress/Goals for the Future

What Partnership Progress has been Made?

- EPA, ME DEP, NH DES, and wastewater treatment plants participated in a coordinated water quality monitoring survey in 1998 to better define the extent of the water quality impairments.
- EPA funded an economic analysis of various treatment alternatives for the municipalities discharging wastewater to the river completed in January 1999.
- EPA approved final pollutant load allocations for the Salmon Falls River in November 1999.
- EPA drafted permits for five wastewater treatment plants in ME and NH with phosphorus limits, and issued final permits for the Milton, Rollinsford, and Somersworth facilities in NH, and S. Berwick, ME.
- The Great Works watershed survey was completed in 2001. A citizens' coalition is now monitoring the river for DO, temperature, and turbidity and also applied for two state grants in 2001 to add monitoring sites, include phosphorus and bacterial testing, and buy monitoring equipment.
- ME DEP hosted a workshop in 2001 for regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) statewide. EPA prepared town-specific GIS maps of regulated areas in ME, based on the 1990 census.

What Actions are Planned for 2002?

- Issue final NPDES permits with phosphorus limits for Berwick, ME.

(continued)

Salmon Falls



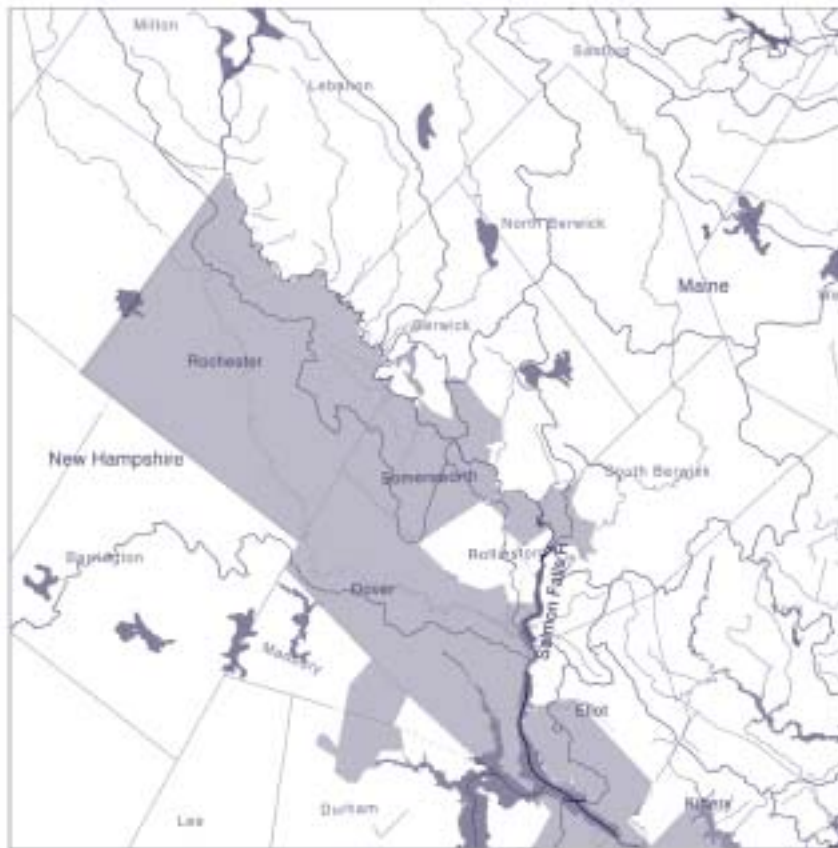
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What Actions are Planned for 2002? (continued)

- ▶ Continue design and construction of phosphorus controls at wastewater treatment plants.
- ▶ Apply for 319 grants to allow the York County Soil and Water Conservation District to begin addressing water quality priorities identified in the watershed survey.
- ▶ Continue to provide technical assistance on stormwater management.

Who are the Partners?

EPA New England • New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission • ME Department of Environmental Protection • NH Department of Environmental Services • ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife • NH Fish and Game Department • US Fish & Wildlife Service • York County Soil and Water Conservation District • Maine State Planning Office • Sea Grant Maine • Conservation Commission of South Berwick • Great Works Land Trust • Town of North Berwick • Town of South Berwick



Legend

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Regulated Area | Surface Water |
| 303(d) Listed Waters | River |
| Watershed Boundary | Town Boundary |
| Sub-Watershed Boundary | State Boundary |



Data Sources: Political boundaries and watershed data from Maine Office of GIS. Regulated Areas correspond with Census-designated Urbanized Areas from 1990 and 2000. Surface water from USGS at 1:100,000. June 21, 2002



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Note: EPA-New England offers businesses and municipalities information and assistance to improve compliance with environmental laws and be better stewards of their local environment. Please call to learn how EPA can help.

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